Weekly Memorials

FOR THE

INGENIOUS:

OR,

An Account of Books lately ſet forth in ſeveral Languages, With other Accounts relating to *Arts* and *Sciences*.

Monday, *October* 30. 1682.

A Continuation of the Account of *Gabrielis Clauderi Methodus balſamandi corpora humana, aliaque majora ſine eviſceratione & ſectione hucuſque ſolitâ*, &c. *In* 4*to*. Altenburgi. 1679.

HAving given an Account from this Book in a foregoing Memorial, of the *Ancient* ways of Embalming dead Bodies, we proceed to diſcharge the Obligation of our Promiſe, by deſcribing the ſeveral Methods uſed by the *Moderns* in that Art.

Kerkringius is ſaid to have been ſo great a Maſter in Chymiſtry, that he knew a way of diſſolving *Amber* with *Heat* alone, with which he did ſo varniſh over dead Bodies, that all their *Members* would be viſible through it, and yet never ſtink, though there had never been any *previous Eviſceration* or *Inciſion*. *Paracelſus* affirms, That his *Sal Enixum* preſerv'd Bodies incredibly long, making them immutable; *in eo enim lignum lapideſcit, limus petreſcit*,

treſcit, *folia Arborum viriditatem nunquam amittunt*. *Glauber* aſcribes the ſame Vertue to his *Sal Mirabile*, being made out of the *Caput mortuum* of common *Salt* and *Vitriol* diſtill'd together; in this *Salt* diſſolv'd in Water, *Silvius* preſerved his *Embryo's* at *Leyden*, as *Borrichius* obſerves, who doubts not, but that good *Alcool Spirit of Wine* would keep them much better.

Mr. *Boyle* in Mr. *Oldenburg's* Philoſophical Tranſactions, has aſſured the World, that *Spirit of Wine* preſerves young Birds taken out of their Eggs; as alſo other *Fœtus's*, Inſects, or any particular part of them, eſpecially if a little Spirit of *Sal Armoniac* diſtill'd from *Calx Viva*, be added to the Spirit of *Wine*. *Weber* is very confident, that ſtrong *Vinegar* will preſerve any Body ſuſpended in it; ſo will Spirit of *Urine*, as an ingenious Experimenter wrote to *Clauder* from the *Eaſt-Indies*. *Baricellus* ſaies, That *Sugar* will preſerve Bodies better than *Spices* or *Gums*. *Joh. Joacimus Becherus* affirms the ſame of it, and prefers it before any other *Salt*. Larks and other Birds may be kept for ſeveral Weeks in *Oat-meal* or *Millet*.

But amongſt all the *Modern* Embalmers, none ever got ſo great a Reputation, or ſo much Wealth as *Bilſius*; the King of *Spain* having given him a vaſt Sum of Money, would have made him his Profeſſor at *Louvain*, but that Univerſity rejecting him upon the Account of his *Religion*, made him return again into the *Dutch Provinces*, where he and his Secret dyed together. The Excellency of his Art invited ſeveral great Men from the remoteſt Parts of *Chriſtendom* to viſit him, to ſee if they could pry into his Secret; but he moſt commonly impos'd upon them by ſeveral little Tricks and Stratagems. *Borrichius* having convers'd with him, reported, That he always us'd to boyl the dead Bodies and their Bowels in a Capacious Braſs-Veſſel, deſpumating and evaporating whatſoever was too *aqueous* or too *oylie*, and afterwards to digeſt them again with *Piſſaſphaltum* and other things reſiſting Putrefaction; which being done, the Bowels were laid again

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in the natural Places of their own Bodies: *Silvius* and ſeveral other great Men were alſo of an Opinion, That *Bilſius* made uſe of *Spices* and *Balſamick Materials*; yet by what *Drelincourt*'s Schollars report at *Leyden*, and by what *Bartholine*, as well as *Clauder* himſelf, obſerv'd, *Bilſius* muſt certainly have done all theſe great Feats by a *Saline Principle*. For the Bodies Embalm'd by him, would often be *moiſt* or *dry*, according to the ſtate of the *Air*, or the *Places* wherein they were kept: But that which is the moſt demonſtrative, is, what *Clauder* himſelf remark'd at *Rotterdam*, whither he went on purpoſe to viſit *Bilſius*, under the Notion of a *Civilian*, that he might have the more Freedom of examining his *Mummies*. *Clauder* being permitted to go into the Room where the Embalm'd Bodies lay, did not perceive in the leaſt any *ſweet Odor* (which others us'd to do, perhaps by reaſon of ſome ſecret *Fumigations* deſign'd to impoſe upon skilful men) but having privately wet his Fingers, touch'd the Bodies with them, and afterwards licking them, diſcover'd a ſharp ſaline Taſte; ſo that he concludes, that *Bilſius* never made uſe of any Aromatick or balſamick Ingredient.

Let the *Bilſian* Method be what it will, this of *Clauder* is no way inferior to it, if not far beyond it; eſpecially upon the Account of his not mangling the Body, or taking out the Bowels; a fault that *Bilſius* was guilty of. Indeed it has been believed for ſeveral Ages, That dead Bodies could not be preſerv'd without *Eviſceration* or Embowelling, becauſe the Bowels, Blood, the *mucous Humours* of the *Glands*, and the other *Juices* within, would ſoon putrifie; yet if we conſider the ſtrange penetrative force of *Clauders* Materials, and his frequent Tryals, we cannot but be of a contrary Opinion; the Experiment being perform'd with undoubted Succeſs upon great variety of Animals.

The Method is this: Firſt, the dead Body is to be plac'd in an oblong Wooden-Veſſel made of Oak, or any other

hard Wood ſhaped for the purpoſe, then let there be ready at hand the *Balſamating Spirit*, *Liquor*, or rather *Pickle* prepared after the following manner: Take of Wood-aſhes (as thoſe of Oak) two Pound, upon which pour of common Water, twelve Pints; let them ſtand for an hour, ſtirring them up and down for Diſſolution-ſake, then add to this Solution *Sal Armoniac* powder'd one Pound, or a little more; ſhake them well up and down in a cloſe-ſtopt Veſſel; afterwards filtrate them through Cap-paper, and ſo keep it for Uſe. Take this Spirit or Pickle, and pour it upon the dead Body till it riſes about Eight Inches above it; the Body at firſt will float at the top, ſo that it muſt be kept under the Pickle by ſome convenient Inſtrument; then let all the chinks of the Veſſel be carefully ſtopt, ſo as to keep out the external Air. The Body, if thick and large, muſt be kept in this Poſture for three Months, if thin and little, but ſix Weeks; ſome require but a Month, yet the time muſt be determined by the *Operator*, who ought to ſteer himſelf according to the hardneſs or ſoftneſs of the fleſh. The Body having lain Two or three Months in this Spirit or Pickle, the Liquor muſt be decanted off, and the Carkaſs taken out of its Wooden Receptacle, and let lye in any convenient Place for 18, or 20 hours; and then it may be placed in a Stove, or Hot-houſe, or upon a Furnace for ſome Days, according as it dries and hardens, ſometimes putting warm Bricks upon the *Abdomen*, or elſe wrapping the Body up in any convenient Cover put it two or three times a day in Sand made hot either by the Sun or Fire; laſt of all, let it be wip'd with a Spunge dip'd in the forementioned Pickle, that all the Filth may be taken away. This Method requiring three Months, and therefore tedious and inconvenient, has perſwaded this publick Benefactor to inſtruct his Reader with a more Compendious way, as follows.

The Putrid Ferment appearing firſt in the *Abdomen*, the Body muſt be taken a few hours after Death, at fartheſt

theſt twelve. Inject firſt ſome Ounces of the forementioned *Balſamating* Spirit or Pickle into the *Oeſophagus*, keeping the Body erect, that the Liquor may ſlide ſlowly down into the Stomach; afterwards ſtop the Jaws up with Silk, or elſe the Liquor will flow out again as ſoon as the Poſture of the Body is changed. 2ly. Let there be light Inciſions made with a convenient Inſtrument under both *Arm-pits*, and in both the *Groins*, into the *Thorax* and *Abdomen* (theſe Places being made choice of, to avoid the Diſgrace of mangling the Body) into which two incurvated Tubes or *Syphons* muſt be thruſt, for the Conveyance of the Liquor into thoſe internal Regions. This being done, the aforementioned Pickle muſt be pour'd upon the Carkaſs in the ſame manner as before, only with this difference, that it may be decanted off within a few Weeks, the Operation being compleated much ſooner by this Method, than the firſt: But that the *Saline Volatile Particles* may be detain'd in the Body, and kept from evaporating, the Author adviſes the *Operator*, that within 18, or 24 hours after he has taken the Body out of the Pickle, he put it to ſteep in a Solution of *Nitre* or *Allom* for two or three Days; afterwards managing it in the Heat of a Stove, Sand, or the Sun, as we intimated before.

To what has been ſaid, theſe few *Cautions* or *Animadverſions* may be added: *Firſt*, That the *Wood* is to be *Hard*; that of *Pine*, *Firr*, &c. being ſoft, will imbibe the greateſt Part of the Penetrating Liquor or Pickle, as *Clauder* himſelf found ſeveral times to his Coſt.

Secondly, The Bodies thus prepar'd, may be once a Week *rub'd over* with a *Spunge* dipt in the aforementioned *Balſamating Spirit*, or in a Solution of *Nitre*, which will very much contribute to their *Longævity*.

Thirdly, That the *Pickle*, while the Bodies lie therein,

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may be *chang'd* or *renew'd* within a Fortnight; or elſe invigorated now and then with its own diſtill'd *Spirit*, at the pleaſure of the *Operator*.

Fourthly, To this *Lixivial* or *Balſamating Liquor* may be added the *Juice* of *Wormwood*, *Myrrhe*, *Aloes*, &c. which may *meliorate* its Preſervative Faculty, which is moſt of all requir'd in the Embalming of *Fat Bodies*, or thoſe dying of *Wounds* and *Hæmorrhagies*.

Fifthly, Care muſt be taken to *defend* the prepar'd Bodies from the *Moiſture* of the *Air*, which may be apt to *colliquate* the *Salts*, and to make them run *per deliquium*; though *Clauder* proteſts, that he has expos'd them to all *Airs*, *Weathers* and *Places*, without the leaſt *Symptom* of *Corruption* or *Alteration*, as ſeveral Noble Men of *Germany* can Witneſs; however, for Security-ſake, in caſe the Bodies thus prepar'd be laid in *Vaults*, or other *moiſt Places*, they may be involv'd in *Cere-cloth*, and put in *Coffins well ſtop'd* for their defence againſt the *Liquefaction* of the *Air*.

To this of *Clauder*, we will make bold to add a Proper Remark from our own Ingenious Country-man, Dr. *Grew*, who ſpeaking of the *Egyptian Mummie*, taken out of the *Royal Pyramids*, and preſented to the *Royal Society* by the Duke of *Norfolk*, does very well obſerve in his *Muſæum Reg. Soc.* p. 2, & 3. That the way of Embalming among the *Egyptians*, was probably by boiling the Body in a long Cauldron (like a *Fiſh-kettle*) in ſome kind of liquid *Balſam* ſo long, till the *Aqueous* Parts of the Fleſh being evaporated, the *Oyly* and *Gummous* Part of the *Balſam* did by degrees ſoak into it, and intimately incorporate therewith, much after the ſame manner as *Sugar* doth in the Conditing of *Pears*, *Quinces*, &c. 'Tis alſo likely, that a better way may be taken than this us'd by the *Egyptians*, and that is by boiling, or rather ſoaking the Body in ſome white ſort of Oyl, and ſuch as will dry (as that of *Walnuts*) made

made, and kept ſo hot as to evaporate the watry Parts by degrees, and to keep the Fleſh white, not brittle, but limber and plyant, which eſpecially in the buſineſs of *Anatomy* would be of great Uſe, becauſe all the *Muſcles* of the Body being firſt parted one from another, might hereby be preſerved ſound, clean, and limber, upon the bones, and ſo all the Motions of the Parts be explicated with the greateſt Eaſe, and without any Offenſiveneſs.

By the way, we cannot but take notice of ſome People here at home, who boaſt of their Art of preſerving Bodies without Embowelling, priding themſelves to appear in our Common Prints by conſtant Advertiſements, as the Maſters of an Extraordinary Secret, with a Claim of Publick Encouragement; ſince the many Ingenious Methods propounded here by our Author, are ſufficiently able to expoſe any immodeſt Pretender to the Diſcovery.

It is with this aforementioned *Balſamating Spirit*, and *Soot*, that *Clauder* prepares his *Extemporary Medicines*, without Diſtillation or Fire, ſo uſeful at *Sea*, and other *Places*, where there is no opportunity for more *Elaborate Operations*. Take of the beſt ſhining *Wood-Soot q. v.* powder it, and pour upon it the Authors forementioned *Liquor*, or *prepared Pickle*, till it ſwims ſome fingers higher than the *Soot*, let the Glaſs be well ſtopt and often ſhak'd, and you will find, that in a quarter of an hour, or leſs, the *Saline menſtruous Liquor* will extract and abſorb the Salt and whole Vertue of the *Soot*; ſo that you have ſoon obtained a moſt delicate *Red Tincture*, free from all *Empyreuma*, or any ungrateful Taſte; let this *Tincture* or *Eſſence* be filtrated and kept for Uſe in a Glaſs well ſtop'd: It has a wonderful *Diaphoretick*, *Diuretick*, *Aperitive*, and *Abſterſive Faculty*; and therefore in *Clauders* Opinion, a moſt *Catholick Medicine*: *Doſ.* from 25 Drops to 50 in any convenient Vehicle. With this *Extemporary Spirit* he prepares his *Tincture* of *Gold*, his *Laudanum* and his

Elixir

Elixir Proprietatis: Though the *Materials* be common, and the *Operation eaſie*, yet they ought not to be *deſpis'd*, eſpecially if we conſider that the *Aſhes* and the *Soot* contain in them both the *fixt* and *volatile Salts* of *Vegetables*.

From the *Acta Eruditorum* No. 6. ſet forth at *Leipſick* in *June*, 1682.

Jo. Pici Mirandulæ *Epiſtolarum Liber, recenſitus & illuſtratus à* Chriſtop. Cellario *Smalcandienſi*. Cizæ. 8*vo*. 1682.

THE Epiſtles of the Incomparable *Joh. Picus Mirandula* written to the moſt famous men of his Age, and formerly, though not without many Faults, Printed at *Paris*, *Venice*, and *Baſil*, are lately reviewed, and Corrected by the Learned *Chriſtophorus Cellarius*; who has premis'd to each Epiſtle, a Summary of its Argument; and likewiſe added ſhort Notes to the greateſt Part of them, that the Vouchers to whom he ſometimes appeals, though dubiouſly and obſcurely, may not be unknown: At the end of them, beſides an *Index*, he hath added the Teſtimonies given by ſeveral great Men, to the Worth and Virtue of the Author.

Medulla Chymiæ, *Authore* Joanne Franciſco Vigani *Mediolanenſi*. *In* 8*vo*. Amſtelædami. 1682.

AMongſt the many Chymiſts, wherewith this Inquiſitive Age hath abounded, none hath been more Curious than our Author, whoſe Ingenious Tract comprehends in two Sheets of Paper the Marrow and Subſtance of Chymiſtry, and by its own Excellency, doth ſurpaſs any Character we are able to give it.

London: Printed for *Henry Faithorne*, and *John Kerſey*, and ſold at their Shop, at the *Rose* in St. *Pauls Church-yard*; and by *W. Nott* in the *Pall-Mall*, *C. Wilkinſon* againſt St. *Dunſtan's* Church in *Fleet-ſtreet*, *B. Billingſly* at the Royal-Exchange in *Cornhil*, and *M. Pardoe* againſt *Bedford-houſe* in the *Strand*.